

## INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR. 15 October 1948

SUBJECT Kamnik Gunpowder Factory

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1. The Kamnik Gunpowder factory in Kamnik was built in 1912. It has not been kept up and is now in a state of disrepair.
2. Beech and alder wood for conversion to charcoal reach the factory from domestic sources and are sufficient to meet its requirements.
3. Before the last war, nitrates were supplied from Hamburg, Germany, but since 1945 this material has been mainly imported from Poland and Czechoslovakia; a small quantity comes from the Soviet Union. After the Tito-Cominform dispute, all nitrate shipments to the Kamnik factory were immediately cancelled by Poland and Czechoslovakia, and the plant is now obliged to draw upon its reserve stocks.
4. Sulphur, before the last war, was imported from Italy; thanks to large accumulated stocks, the plant was able to meet its demands during the war. In addition, the German authorities occupying the plant during the war imported a sufficient amount of sulphur to stockpile this material up to the present.
5. The Kamnik factory produces two varieties of gunpowder, so-called "Kamniki" Number 1 and Number 2, which are chiefly used for the mining industry. It also produces "Metan-Kamniki", a special explosive which can be used without danger of explosion in mining industries where there is methane gas. The factory produces black powder for shrapnel and grenade shrapnel as well as fuses, both slow-burning and fast-burning varieties.
6. At present, the Kamnik factory can meet Slovenia's domestic needs for gunpowder. Small reserves of gunpowder, amounting to a few tons, were supposed to be shipped to Albania about June 1948, but these exports were cancelled as a result of the recent Yugoslav-Albanian friction.
7. The Kamnik Gunpowder factory is operated in conjunction with a similar factory in Karlovac.
8. The Kamnik plant operates in three eight-hour shifts. Unskilled labor receives an average of 11 dinars per hour; skilled workers get an average of 16 dinars per hour; department chiefs, about 4,500 dinars per month; the managing director receives 6,000 dinars per month.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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9. Personnel

Managing Director

Pecek, 54 years old, born in Ljubljana; major on active duty in the Ordnance Corps.

Chief of the Gunpowder  
Section

Engineer Lukic, chemical engineer from Belgrade; at present, the only technically qualified employee in the plant. Lukic was to be transferred about 1 September 1948 so as to fill a similar position in the Obiliscevo Gunpowder factory. His successor will be Florijan, mentioned below.

Deputy Chief of the Gun-  
powder Section

Cvetko Florijan, 30 years old, born in Novo Mesto, a graduate of the War Technical College in Kragujevac. He is liked by the workers and does not belong to the Communist Party. However, he has been ordered to join the Party or lose his position.

Chief of the Technical  
Section

Trampuz, 25 years old, born in Crnuce; a graduate of the Ljubljana Technical High School. During the last war he was interned by German authorities in the Salzburg area. He is not a member of the Communist Party.

10. Miscellaneous

On 23 February 1948, a serious explosion occurred in the Kamnik plant which entirely destroyed the gunpowder section. Sabotage was proven and a foreman named Turk in the gunpowder section was arrested and executed; a Croat engineer was imprisoned.

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